

A NEW SPECIES OF *ACONTIA* OCHSENHEIMER FROM CUBA

(LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

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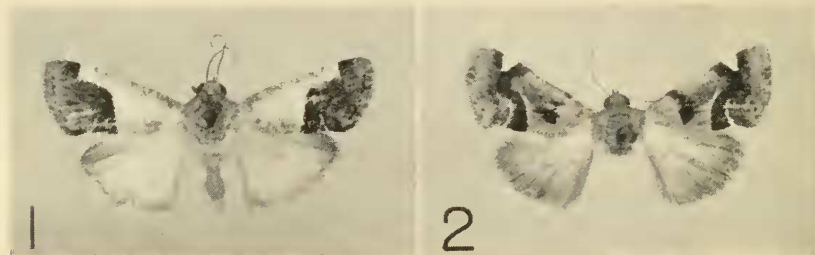
A male of an undescribed species of *Acontia* Ochsenheimer from Santiago de Cuba, Oriente, Cuba, has been in the collection of the United States National Museum for many years. William Schaus compared the specimen with other species of the genus in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History) in 1925. He concluded that the species was not represented in that collection but he did not describe it. Seven more specimens, four males and three females, are now available for study through the kindness of Ing. Fernando de Zayas Munoz, Jefe, Seccion Sanidad Vegetal, Ministerio de Agricultura, Habana and Pastor Alayo Dalmau, Santiago de Cuba. The species is named and described as follows:

***Acontia isolata*, n. sp.**

(Figs. 1-4)

Head with proboscis well developed; labial palpi small, oblique, reaching about to or slightly exceeding ventral margin of frons, third segment short (0.25 mm.), clothed with small dark scales, first and second segments longer (0.40 mm.), subequal, clothed laterally and ventrally with larger, looser, pale-colored scales; frons rather bulbous, exceeding anterior margin of eye about one-fourth length of eye, rather rough, depressed before slightly porrect ventral margin; eyes large (width [frontal aspect] half again as wide as frons), naked, hemispherical; ocelli present, moderately large, adnate to dorsal margin of eyes caudad of antennae; antennae filiform, spiculate ventrally and laterally, the spicules larger on apical segments. Vestiture of head, patagia, tegulae and thorax of broad, light brown or gray, pale-tipped scales. Abdomen yellowish brown, the scales at the caudal margin of segments paler than others; dorsal tufts absent; well-developed coremata present on seventh segment. Pectus clothed with large pearlaceous scales and sparse, long, fine white hairs; tympanum rather large, shielded dorsally by an alular fan of broad pearlaceous scales; legs normal, inner tibial spurs long, at least twice as long as width of tibia or length of outer spurs, hind legs nearly white, mid legs pale, flecked with brown scales, fore legs mostly dark brown except white ventral portion of femora and apices of tarsal segments. Forewing triangular, 10 mm. in length; costa nearly straight, slightly convex basally and apically; termen more or less evenly curved; inner margin slightly sinuous, convex basally, concave distally;  $R_1$  free, from near middle of cell;  $R_3$  from  $R_2$ , anastomosing with  $R_{4+5}$  to form small, triangular areole;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  stalked, the stalk connate with  $R_5$  at apex of areole;  $M_1$  from slightly below areole;  $M_2$ ,  $M_3$  and  $Cu_1$  from near lower angle of cell;  $Cu_2$  from apical third of cell; a transparent, oval fovea present between anal veins near base of wing in males. Hind wing with  $Sc + R_1$  adnate with cell to near middle;  $Rs$  and  $M_1$  connate at upper angle of cell;  $M_2$  very weak, from shortly above lower angle of cell;  $M_3$  and  $Cu_1$  stalked from lower angle of cell.

Pattern of maculation of dorsal surfaces of wings dissimilar in the two sexes. *Male* (Fig. 1): Basal half of forewing white, suffused with gray, the degree of suffusion variable, white coloration of basal area extending distad between costa and vein  $R_5$  to apical fourth of wing, abruptly truncate at end; distal half of forewing mostly ferruginous; antemedial band nearly obsolete, when present, appearing as vague, outward-curved white line; ordinary spots obsolete; postmedial band vague, limited basally between vein  $R_5$  and inner margin by line of demarcation between light and dark portions of wing, the outer line formed between costa and  $R_5$  by line of demarcation between light and dark areas followed by an irregular black line between  $R_5$  and fold and by an outward-concave fine white line between fold and inner margin; an irregular ferruginous shade present immediately distad of postmedial band in subterminal area; a series of



*Acontia isolata*, n. sp., photographs of adults: Fig. 1, male; fig. 2, female. Approximately two times natural size.

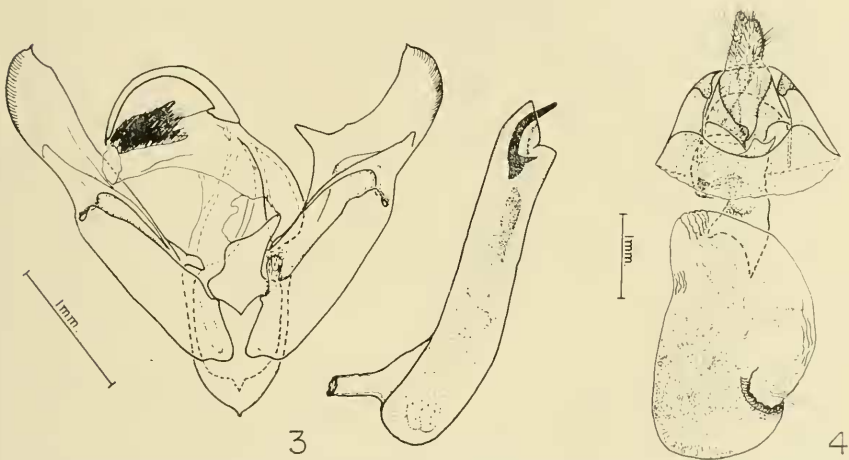
small black terminal points present; fringe dark gray. Hindwing mostly white, but clothed with long yellow hairs; heavily suffused with fuscous along costa, less heavily suffused with fuscous along termen and on apices of the veins; fringe yellowish flecked with gray near margin of wing.

*Female* (Fig. 2): Basal half of forewing dark gray; ordinary spots absent; antemedial band a dark, nearly black, outwardly convex line extending from costa to fold, slightly broader in fold; postmedial band defined basad between  $M_2$  and inner margin by an incurved white line, central portion of postmedial band dark olivaceous brown between costa and  $Cu_1$ , then ferruginous to inner margin, outer elements of postmedial band consisting of a white wedge-shaped spot on costa to  $R_5$  continued as an irregular black line between  $R_5$  and  $Cu_1$  and finally as a white outwardly concave line from  $Cu_1$  to inner margin; subterminal line vague, irregular, ferruginous in color; fringe and terminal portion of wing gray, black terminal intervenular points present. Hindwing yellowish, suffused with fuscous, marginal band wider and more distinct than in males.

Ventrally both sexes mostly pale yellow or yellowish brown, a patch of dark brown scales at end of cell, fringe of forewing dark grey.

Male and female genitalia specifically distinct. Male genitalia (Fig. 3) asymmetrical, costa of right valve with a spur-shaped process near middle; aedeagus with a large digitiform cornutus. Female genitalia (Fig. 4) with sternites of eighth segment uniting to form dorsal part of ostium; vagina enlarged, expanded to the left; ductus bursae moderately short, stout, twisted and sclerotized; bursa copulatrix large, a small, wartlike lobe near anterior third of right side; ductus seminalis arising from wartlike lobe.

Type, male, Santiago de Cuba, Oriente, Cuba, type number 64399, and one female paratype, Daiquiri, Oriente, Cuba, May 1955. F. de Zayas, in the United States National Museum, Washington, D. C. One male paratype, Buenos Aires, Las Villas, Cuba, July 1953, F. de Zayas; one male paratype, "Península de Guanacahabibes" [Península de Guanacahabibes] Pinar del Rio, Cuba, July 1955, F. de Zayas; one female paratype, C. de Jagua, Cienfuegos, Las Villas, Cuba, June 1954, F. de Zayas; and one male and one female paratypes, Daiquiri, Oriente, Cuba, May 1955. F. de Zayas, in the personal



*Acontia isolata*, n. sp., male and female genitalia: Fig. 3, ventral view of male genitalia, aedeagus removed and shown to one side; fig. 4, ventral view of female genitalia.

collection of Mr. de Zayas, Habana, Cuba. One male paratype, "37," in the personal collection of Mr. Alayo, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.

*Acontia isolata*, n. sp., belongs to the group of species containing *Acontia dacia* Druce and *Acontia terminimaculata* (Grote). Both sexes are readily separated from those species, however, by the shape of the white markings of the costa of the forewing. The male genitalia of *isolata* differs from those of *dacia* and of *terminimaculata* in that there is no process on the costa of the left valve in *isolata* and the cornutus is single, not double as in those species. The female genitalia are similar to those of *dacia* and *terminimaculata*, but differ in the shape of the parts forming the ostium, the expanded vagina, and the abdomen lacks lateral membraneous scale pouches on the seventh sternite. Illustrations of the adults and figures of the genitalia of *dacia* and *terminimaculata* appear in my paper published in the Journal of Economic Entomology, vol. 48, no. 5, pp. 599-601, 1955.